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UPSET OF THE YEAR (Already!) AMERICA DEFEATS FUERZA GUERRERA WINS CMLL WORLD WELTERWEIGHT TITLE

The headline says it all. In a stunning upset, America defeated Fuerza Guerrera on Sunday, March 8, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City to win the CMLL World Welterweight Championship. Guerrera was the initial champion, winning a tournament final over el Khalifa on Saturday, February 15, 1992, at la Arena Puebla. This was Guerrera's first (and only) title defense.

The stunning part about this upset is the winner. America is truly just an opening-match-guy in Mexico (or he was until February 1st). Since I started watching Galavision regularly in December 1989, he has been on just three times, all in opening matches, and one of those was just this past month! He is far further down the promotional ladder than past world champions Scorpio (WWA World Heavyweight, defeating Dos Caras), Ron Garvin (NWA World Heavyweight, defeating Ric Flair), and Iceman King Parsons (WCCW World Heavyweight, defeating Kerry Von Erich). Only within the last six weeks has America begun to receive his new push. Formerly billed as "la Aguila del America," he had his costume redesigned to look exactly like that of "America," the Mexico City First Division soccer team, and now comes to the ring with the ring ladies bearing many soccer balls.

In an interview after the title match, published in the March 12, 1992, edition of "La Prensa," Mexico's leading-circulation newspaper, Guerrera stated that he was moving up in weight class. He said he could no longer maintain the 78 kilograms (172 pounds) limit for welterweights and would now wrestle as a middleweight (87 kilograms or 192 pounds limit). Let's not discuss how Guerrera has put on so much weight between his 36th and 38th birthday, all muscle. He is however, challenging Atlantis for the latter's NWA World Middleweight Championship and The Blue Panther for the CMLL version of the World Middleweight Title. And, of course, Guerrera will still feud with Octagon, the Mexican National Middleweight Champion, although the expected mask versus mask match that fans had anticipated would occur March 20, 1992, has been postponed yet again (for the third time since December 1990). In that same interview, Guerrera said that he congratulated America, and that he was beaten fair and square. Guerrera also made one other surprising announcement, saying that on Sunday, March 15, 1992, his son would debut in Tecozautla, Hidalgo, Mexico, under the ring name "Fuerza Gimm."

Now, I have written the first page story as the casual fan sees it. It turns out, as reported "The Wrestling Observer Newsletter" that America is the wrestler who used to be el Pantera II, who, as part of the lighter-weight trio team, "las Saetas del Ring," with Ciclón Ramirez and la Aguila Solitaria, are still the State of Mexico Trios Champions. So el Pantera II is no stranger to la Arena Mexico. But "America" is! And what will the casual (i. e., 99.5% majority) fans say about America, who they see as below a rank jobber, as winning the World Welterweight Title, and from Fuerza Guerrera?

In a (somewhat) related development, Saigon Dragon, el Último Dragon (Yoshihiro Asai) announced that he, too, would be moving up in weight class, in his case from middleweight to light heavyweight. Dragon will now challenge Jerry Estrada for the CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship and/or Lizmark for the NWA World Light Heavyweight title. In fact, in this week's (3/26) issue of the weekly Japanese magazine "Weekly Gong," it is reported that Dragon and Lizmark will begin their feud for the NWA belt when the EMLL returns to la Arena Mexico for its spring run in May. (Actually, "Gong" seems to think Dragon will be winning that belt, but with the EMLL in 1992, one thing's for sure, and that is that nothing is for sure.) Dragon's shift in weight class would seem, however, to end Dragon's feuds with The Blue Panther (for the CMLL World Middleweight Title), Emilio Charles junior (a true EMLL middleweight rudo), and la Bestia Salvaje (really a true welterweight).

And speaking of Salvaje, he is in the main event of the weekly Friday night EMLL extravaganza at la Arena Mexico. For the show held Friday, March 13, 1992, and to be broadcast on Galavision on Sunday, March 22, 1992, Salvaje (Juan Manuel Carillo Rodriguez) will wrestle in a "caballero contra caballero" match versus Kato Kung Lee I (Johnny Lezcano Smith). Presumably (I haven't seen it yet), something was set up to warrant this match in the previous week's show (which aired 3/15/92 on Galavision—see page 7 for TV results from that card.) If Salvaje were to win, it would be his second big hair match win in four weeks at la Arena Mexico. Unfortunately for Salvaje, all signs point to his losing to Lee. Though Lee is way past his prime, the promoters of EMLL regularly push him heavily in stipulation matches. In fact, this is Lee's third hair match main event in the last twelve months at la Arena Mexico (the other two were with Kung Fu and el Pirata Morgan). Unfortunately for us, this match does not hold out to have much promise except for blood fans.

The semifinal of the March 13 card saw Konnan el Barbaro team up with Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo and Casanova el Vampiro Canadiense to face Sangre Chicana, Cien Caras, and Pierroth junior. No doubt this will be an all-out brawl with tons of heat, but it may even be a worse match for moves and style than the main event! The tercera saw los Nuevos Infeemales (M. S. 1, el Pirata Morgan, and el Satanico) face off in a non-title match versus the team of Atlantis (who has been off TV all of 1992, I believe), Lizmark, and la Mascara Sagrada; this should be good. The segunda has The Blue Panther, la Fiera, and Kung Fu versus America, el Filoso, and The Love Machine; no doubt the highlights will be with Machine and Panther and I would not at all be surprised to see those two in a mask match *very* soon. The opener, which will likely be off TV, will have one of my personal favorites, Mexican National Welterweight Champion Ciclón Ramirez, teaming with la Aguila Solitaria and el Solar II to face el Guerrero de la Muerte, Enjambre, and Marabunta.

In other EMLL news, there are a bunch of newcomers to the EMLL rings. In addition to America (being ex-ell Pantera II), and los Ku Klux Kaines, and Rams (who wears a football uniform), there is now also a wrestler dressed similarly to Rams called "Super Bowl;" and you thought things could not get any weirder. Two of the SWS wrestlers have made their debuts in Mexico. Masao Orihara has debuted as Iga and Toshiyuki Nakahara has debuted as Koga. They will be a pareja while in Mexico (I expect them to be full-time in Mexico except for the one-week SWS tours per month). The names Iga and Koga mean little to me but when "Weekly Gong" reported this news it was clear that these names would make sense to the Japanese fans. Both Iga and Koga are training full-time with The Blue Panther, el maestro, and Pepe Casas, the head coach, at the official EMLL gym on the fifth floor of la Arena Mexico (the EMLL offices are on the fourth floor and the arena occupies floors 1-3). Both Iga and Koga have been in Mexico since 2/17, and they debuted 3/7. In a signal of how well these

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UWA NEWS

The biggest news from the UWA parts is the continued tour of Mexico of "Los Espressos Canadienses" (The Canadian Express) made up of Bufalo Allen (Allen Coage), D. N. S. Funas (Doug Furnas), and Phil Lason (Dan Kroffat). They have been a super big hit throughout Mexico and are main eventing throughout the circuit. Since I do not have any recent results involving them (see page 8 for the results from the card held Sunday, March 15, 1992, at el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos), here are some of the cards they have been on, plus other recent UWA cards in the Mexico City area:

* Thursday, March 12, 1992, at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico: Main: Mil Mascaras and Canek versus Phil Lason and D. N. S. Funas; Semi: Las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos I, IV, and V) versus Kahos I, el Indomito, and Jose "el Negro" Casas; Segunda: Bat Blue and el Rayo de Plata versus el Danes Negro and el Viento Negro; and the inicial saw Casandro and el Angel Mortal versus Lasser and Katana.

* Thursday, March 12, 1992, at la Arena Toluca in Toluca, Mexico, Mexico: Main: Bufalo Allen and Fishman versus el Villano III and el Fantasma; Semi: Los Tortugillos Karatekas I-IV (Donatelo, Leonardo, Miguel Angel, and Rafael) versus el Macho and los Guerreros del Averno (Shu, el Guerrero, el Lobo Rubio, and el Hijo del Diablo); Segunda: Momotaro (Monkey Magic Wakita) and el Sismo versus los Rayos Tapatios I and II; and the inicial is Takeda versus el Principe Maya.

* Thursday, March 12, 1992, at el Auditorio Municipal in Los Reyes La Paz, Mexico, Mexico: Main: Super Raton, Super Pinochio, and el Solar I versus The Baby Face I, el Espanto junior, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow); Semi: Fray Tormenta and Kendo Star versus el Falcon and el Scorpio junior; Segunda: los Mohicanos I and II versus los Dragones Chinos I and II; and the inicial has Cheyene versus Mando Amezcua junior.

* Friday, March 13, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in Netzahualcoyotl, Mexico, Mexico (TV Taping to air Saturday, March 21, 1992, on Imevision): The Main Event has Mil Mascaras, Canek, and el Villano III versus los Espressos Canadienses (Bufalo Allen, D. N. S. Funas, and Phil Lason); the semifinal will see Enrique Vera and el Sicodelico team up versus The American Eagles I and II (Tony Anthony and Danny Davis); the segunda has Super Raton and (Super) Pinochio versus Jose "el Negro" Casas and el Espanto junior; and the inicial has el Celestial and el Futuro versus el Sismo and el Sevillano.

* Friday, March 13, 1992, at la Arena Lopez Mateos in Tlalnepantla, Mexico, Mexico: Main: Las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos I, IV, and V) versus Rambo, el Engendro, and el Indomito; Semi: Los Guerreros del Averno (Shu, el Guerrero, el Lobo Rubio, and el Hijo del Diablo) versus el Solar I, el Coloso, and el Magnetico; Segunda: The Bird Boy II and el Cicon Azul versus el Tigre Volador and el Rayo de Plata; and the inicial has Bat Blue and el Pequeno Audoz versus Black Montana and el Silencioso.

* Friday, March 13, 1992, at la Arena Altavilla in the Mexico City area, has a main event of Fuerza Guerrera, Ponzona, and Arafat versus el Volador, el Misterioso, and Thunder.

* Saturday, March 14, 1992, at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico: I just have the main event: las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos I, IV, and V) versus los Espressos Canadienses (Bufalo Allen, D. N. S. Funas, and Phil Lason).

* Saturday, March 14, 1992, at la Arena Altavilla in the Mexico City area: I just have the main event, but it is a mascara contra mascara match with Geminis versus el Halcon Guerrero.

* Sunday, March 15, 1992, at the el Cortijo bull ring in Mexico City will have a caballera contra caballera match with Alta Tension versus el Cicon Azul.

* Sunday, March 15, 1992, at la Arena Altavilla in the Mexico City area, has a main event of el Rayo de Oro defending his Mexican National Featherweight Championship versus el Viento Negro.

* Sunday, March 15, 1992, at el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos in Naucalpan, Mexico, Mexico, has a main event of los Canadienses Espresos (Bufalo Allen, D. N. S. Funas, and Phil Lason) versus Dos Caras, Enrique Vera, and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada. That is the only match that was listed in this weekend's papers, but on page 8, in the "late news" section, I will have full results from that entire card.

In UWA News that is not result-related, here is what I have:

* Rambo (Jose Luis "Pepito" Mendieta junior) was interviewed by "La Prensa" in their 3/12 issue at some length. Rambo had led a strange but ultimately successful (in drawing heat and in drawing money) tour of France, Spain, and the Middle East in late November-early December 1991, and this has become one of his key "over points" with the fans, who now view him as a successful veteran ambassador of lucha libre. Rambo said that he would like to do another tour this year, and that, in fact, one was likely, and that he would bring with him again luchadores Carlos Plata and "el CHacho" Herodes.

* Mil Mascaras has been persuaded to extend his tour of the UWA rings through at least March 28, 1992. Mascaras has been invaluable to the UWA as a draw during the two weeks most of the UWA stars have been in Japan. Even at age 49 (or more), Mascaras is still a huge draw in Mexico City. I firmly believe that part of the reason Mascaras can remain such a top draw almost 27 years after his debut is that he wrestles in Mexico City only sparingly, maybe three to four weeks on the UWA circuit every other month or so. This manages to keep him fresh. Plus, he is not "over-exposed" so far as television goes, as until recently there wasn't any in Mexico City, and so the fans aren't "sick" of seeing him every week, unlike say a Ric Flair, who in some form or another has been on TV in the Mid-Atlantic area EVERY WEEKEND FOR SIXTEEN YEARS (nobody can stay a big draw like that; it says so much about Flair, his charisma, and work rate, that he still draws as many fans as he does).

* The third annual "el Toreo Cup", a lightning tournament matching faces and heels on the same team, is now definitely set for Friday, May 1, 1992, and naturally will be at el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos. Last year the winners were heel el Gigante Warrior and face el Brazo de Plata (who is a face even when his team of brothers are heels as generally every fan cheers for el Brazo de Plata). The year before the cup was a trio tournament (which included UWA and EMLL stars although last year it did not and this year it will not either) and Sangre Chicana's team won. In the span of two years the tournament has gathered such a following that it has quickly become a favorite night for the fans. You wonder why more promotions do not try this for one night. Riki Choshu booked last year's New Japan Annual Tag Team Tournament on this principal and it went over all right (not great but all right). Oh well, just wondering.

* And last, but not least, the strike has been settled! Yes, that is the same strike that began in September 1991. It was never formally settled, though grievances had pretty much been dropped when each side allowed the other to put its big show of the week on a weekly television series. However, neither promotion, the EMLL nor the UWA, nor the union (of wrestlers), ever formally declared the strike over. Negotiations continued for several months until this past week. On Thursday, March 12, 1992, representatives of the EMLL/CMLL promotion, the UWA/LLJ promotion, the Sindicato (representative here was Manny Guzman), and the actual arena promoters got together and signed agreements allowing certain arenas (Coliseo and Mexico for the EMLL, el Toreo, Netzhaulcoyotl, and Querertaro for the UWA) as being allowed to televise their matches, in return for "financial guarantees" to the wrestlers and its union and the forfeiture of the union of the right in essence to strike (it would apparently be illegal in Mexico to legally forfeit the right to strike so the wording said that the union "promised" not to strike). One arean, la Arena Naucalpan, promoted by Carlos Moreno, did not sign the pact, due to concerns over the language, but Moreno's ratification was expected shortly.

UWA TELEVISION RUNDOWN

1. The UWA television show broadcast Saturday, February 15, 1992, from 2:30 pm-4:00 pm Mexico City time (= CST) and taped Sunday, February 9, 1992, at el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos in Naucalpan, Mexico, Mexico, before what appeared to be a very sparse crowd:

1. Introduction and Video of the rivalry between el Hijo del Santo and Jose "el Negro" Casas.

2. Fishman and The Samoan Swat Team defeated el Fantasma and los Cowboys (Silver King and el Texano) two falls to one. 11:46 of this match aired, and it was pretty good. The first fall saw one of the Samoans pin Texano (the captain) with a side salto; the second saw both Cowboys pin both Samoans with simultaneous schoolboys; and the third fall saw Fishman pin Texano with the lariat right after King had been shaken from off of the top corner turnbuckle and thus crotched himself on the top turnbuckle. King and Texano worked great with the Samoans and really this match was pretty good. ** 1/2

3. Tala Menendez interviews el Fantasma and el Solar I (and their wives) at Fantasma's house.

4. Dos Caras, Tinieblas I, and el Hijo de Tinieblas (with Alushe) defeated Kokina, el Gigante Warrior, and Canek in three falls. 10:14 of this match aired. Kokina pinned Dos Caras with a big splash to end the first fall. After that fall, the heels got Alushe and Warrior gave him a backbreaker and Kokina gave Alushe a leg bomb. The second fall saw Kokina splash Canek by mistake and Caras covered them both for the pin. After this fall, Alushe got his revenge on Warrior and Kokina with kicks and slaps and even a "tope suicida" (sort of). This you have to see to believe. The third fall saw Kokina whip Hijo de Tinieblas into the corner, Hijo moved, referee el Fresero got in the way, and Kokina splashed the referee for an automatic disqualification. Kokina and el Hijo de Tinieblas were the only saving graces in this match, which was pretty poor. * 1/2

5. Arturo Ruiz interviews the UWA lucha libre queen, Erla I.

6. The Killer won the UWA World Junior Light Heavyweight Championship in three falls from Enrique Vera. I believe the whole match, 16:23 long, aired. The first fall saw Vera pin Killer in 4:17 with a belly to belly suplex. The second fall also went 4:17 before the Killer, having survived two near-falls, pinned Vera with two poor lariats and a jumping reverse elbow drop from off of the second rope. The third fall was excellent, considering neither of these two is an exceptional athlete. It went 7:49. The finish saw referee el Bucles bumped (not by any direct action of the wrestler but because he "got in the way" of a regular irish whip). Vera had Killer in a submission hold when Killer's manager, Andy Barrow, entered the ring and nailed Vera (actually the punch clearly came up short on the video) with the "phantom foreign object" foreign object, and Killer covered Vera as Bucles awoke and counted the pin. Trivia purists will love to note that when the UWA first created the World Junior Heavyweight Championship, in 1988, they held a tournament at el Toreo and Vera pinned Killer in the finals. Then Killer won it in 1989, then lost it el Astro de Oro in Guatemala in 1990; Astro and Doctor Wagner junior traded it before Wagner regained it at el Toreo and then lost it to Vera. So that is the ENTIRE history of this belt. Killer's debut match in 1988 at el Toreo was against Vera (in a tag team match). This was well-booked and well-worked for two fair athletes. *** 1/2

2 The UWA television show broadcast Saturday, February 22, 1992, and taped Sunday, February 16, 1992, at el Toreo:

1. Introduction and a video on UWA wrestling.

2. The Baby Face I, el Indomito, and el Engendro drew Super Raton, (Super) Pinochio, and el Sicodelico in three falls. 14:12 aired. The first fall ended when Sicodelico pinned Indomito with the

diving body attack at 3:12. The second fall saw Indomito nail Raton with a beautiful missile kick, but the finish was Engendro pinning Pinochio at 1:57 with the big elbow drop. The third fall was a ridiculous double knock out double pinfall for the draw at the 4:06 mark. A DUD, though el Indomito and el Engendro tried. This is the worst face team I have ever seen in Mexico.

3. Tala Menedez interviews playwright Oscar Villegas (this shows how different the UWA TV show is from the EMLL show, as the EMLL pretty much goes with straight matches and the UWA has a lot of serious interviews and features).

4. The Killer, la Muerte, and el Espanto junior (managed by Andy Barrow) defeated Enrique Vera, el Fantasma, and el Solar I in three falls of which 8:06 aired. El Solar I pinned el Espanto junior with a power bomb to end the first fall at 2:23; the second saw Espanto pin Fantasma with a more-than-halfway-across-the-ring diving body press. The third fall saw la Muerte foul Vera behind the referee's back in 2:47. This was a really bad match (especially by la Muerte who was horrid) but amid the ashes was a beautiful glowing flame in the form of el Espanto junior, who was absolutely outstanding, and there is little doubt that his pareja with Jose "el Negro" Casas is already the second best in all of Mexico. DUD.

5. Speaking of Casas, he teamed with el Tigre Canadiense and Doctor Wagner junior to face los Cowboys (Silver King and el Texano) and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada in the semifinal. 9:59 aired. The first fall went they way of the tecnicos when Hamada pinned Wagner with a huracan rana at 4:26. Only 2:10 of the second fall aired; the finish saw Wagner pin Texano with a Liger bomb. The finish of the third fall was the only letdown in the match; it was not built to and was anti-climactic; Texano pinned Tigre with a straight power bomb, that was all, in 3:23. Otherwise, this was the best UWA match I have seen on their weekly TV shows. Casas, King, and Hamada were excellent while Wagner, Tigre, and Texano were super. It was the best I have ever seen either Tigre and particularly Wagner look. Casas's spots with both Silver King and with his girlfriend's dad (Hamada) were the stuff of dreams. Highly recommended. **** 1/4. Even better than Canek and Dos Caras from two weeks earlier.

6. The main event saw Bam Bam Bigelow team with The Samoan Swat Team to defeat Fishman, Canek, and Dos Caras in three falls. The first fall saw Bigelow pin Canek with the old "Mighty Inoue somersault drop" in 6:33. The second fall saw the Mexicans come back and ended at 5:59 when Fishman pinned one of the Samoan "twins" after two sentons. The third fall had a lot of action, and everybody looked good in their spots (which the Americans won a lot of), but nobody seemed to mix together that well. Bigelow pinned Canek clean as a sheet at 3:41 with the same somersault drop to end the third fall. So a total of 16:13 aired here. Pretty good, but not so good as the semifinal. ***.

NWA NEWS (Continued)

I do have some results from the EMLL. They held one of their biggest Tuesday night cards in a long time on Tuesday, February 25, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City. The main event saw Javier "el Monarca" Cruz upset Apolo Dantes clean in three falls in a singles' match. The finish of the third fall was the old "Butcher Vachon/Mario Galento hangman hold!" The semifinal had Saigon Dragon el Ultimo Dragon teaming with la Mascara Sagrada and el Filoso to defeat la Bestia Salvaje, la Fiera, and el Felino in what I'll bet was a real good match. The tercera had el Hijo de Lizmark, Cachorro Mendoza, and el Angel Azteca over el Supremo I, el Comando Ruso, and Ponzona in three falls. The segunda had la Mascara, Super Kiss, and el Gran Apache I defeat el Volcanico, el Halcon Negro junior, and Mario Prado junior in three falls. And the inicial saw Pegaso and el CHamaco Segundo defeat el Escudero Rojo and el Reyes Veloz I in three falls. ALSO, at la Arena Lopez Mateos on Wednesday, February 26, 1992, los Gemelos Metalicos (Oro and Plata) teamed with UWA star el Celestial to defeat los Destruktores (Tony Arce and el Vulcano) and la Bestia Salvaje in three falls. That was the semifinal. The main event had Mil Mascaras, el Hijo de Lizmark, and el Rayo de Jalisco junior over el Satanico, Jerry Estrada, and M. S. 1 in three falls.

EMLL TELEVISION RUNDOWN

The EMLL show broadcast Sunday, March 15, 1992, on Galavision:

1) From 3/1/92 at la Arena Mexico: Highlights of la Mascarita Sagrada defeating el Espectrito (junior) to win the first CMLL World Super-Mini-Estrellas Tournament. The finishes of all three falls were shown; the match looked fine. About 2:30 total time aired. The finish of the third fall saw Sagrada being press-slammed by Espectrito but reverse it into "la rana" and take home the pinfall victory. NR. rating.

2) Cíclon Ramirez and America (ex-el Pantera II) defeated Hussein el Gran Sheick (Jose Luis Arias Romero) and el Felino ("Baby" Casas) two falls to zero in a total elapsed time of 12:54. The first fall saw Cíclon make Sheick submit to the upside down backbreaker, "la mesadora" in 7:37. The second fall saw America defeat el Felino via count out of the ring after a beautiful off-of-the-top-rope out-of-the-ring "el mortal al frente," while Ramirez was pinning Sheick with a poor "huracan rana" at the 5:17 mark. That last move is one of the prettiest in all of wrestling but was messed up here. Everyone looked fair here but nobody looked real good. * 1/2. By the way the referees here for this, the opening match of the 3/6/92 card at la Arena Mexico, were el Pompin ("Poncho" Ramirez) and Javier "el Gato" Montini. The ring announcer tonight was opera star Vitorino.

3) *Cartometro del Ring*: Here is this week's popularity poll: Tecnicos: 1) Octagon; 2) Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon. Rudos: 1) el Brazo de Plata; 2) Cien Caras. Luchadoras: 1) Lady Apache; 2) Martha "la Aplandora" Villalobos. Super-Mini-Estrellas: 1) la Mascarita Sagrada; 2) el Espectrito (junior). Trios: 1) los Intocables del Ring (Masakre, Jaque Mate, and Pierroth junior); 2) los Nuevos Infernales (M. S. 1, el Pirata Morgan, and el Satanico); El Revelacion de la Semana: los Guerreros Mayas (a new trio); El Lance de la Semana: from la Arena Coliseo, el Dandy's tope on Emilio CHarles junior.

4) Octagon, Saigon Dragon el Ultimo Dragon (Yoshihiro Asai), and Kato Kung Lee I (Johnny Lezcano Smith) defeated la Bestia Salvaje (Juan Manuel Carillo Rodrigues), Javier "el Monarca" Cruz (Pedro Javier Saptien Veracruz) and captain The Blue Panther two falls to zero in a total elapsed time of 16:39. The referees for this match, the third of the card, were Montini and Pompin. The first fall saw Octagon pin Cruz with a dropkick at 8:30 (while Dragon was pinning Panther with "la quebrada," the Asai moonsault bodyblock). The second fall saw Lee pin Panther with a reversed rana in 8:07, after Dragon had pinned Panther with the german suplex hold—which got a big pop—and Salvaje had pinned Dragon with the power bomb). As soon as this match ended, Salvaje attacked Lee and left him bloody; after the cameras went off, Lee challenged Salvaje to a caballera contra caballera match which took place 3/13. I thought that that hair match was not well set up by this match. Octagon, Dragon, and Panther were the three best wrestlers on the card, in my opinion, and Salvaje was super as well, while Cruz was solid. Lee, however.... A really good match. *** 3/4.

5) Salomon Grundy, Aaron Grundy (Mike Shaw), and Lizmark (Juan Banos) defeated Nitron (Daryl Karolet), el Pirata Morgan (Francisco Ortiz Villanueva), and captain el Satanico (Jose Daniel Lopez Lopez) in a total elapsed time of 18:12. The referees for this semifinal were Roberto "el Guero" Rangel and Pepe "Tropi" Casas. This was a comedy match for the most part, with little actual wrestling spots, but it served as a change of pace from the match before and after it on the card. The faces won the first fall in 7:23 with a triple splash on Nitron; Nitron pinned Lizmark at 3:49 of the second with a side suplex; and el Satanico was counted out of the ring at 7:00 of the third fall after a super tope from off the top rope out of the ring by Lizmark. Lizmark looks super for nearly 42. **.

6) The wild main event saw Cien Caras (Carmelo Reyes Gonzales), Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Sangre Chicana (Andres Richardson) defeat Konnan el Brabaro (Carlos Santiago Espada Moises), Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo, and el Rayo de Jalisco junior (Maximino Linares junior) in two straight falls in 19:53. The referees were Rangel and Montini. Just a wild all-out brawl like last week which went into the stands and all over! Chicana pinned Aguayo with the left hook to end the match. Just a wild match that I highly recommend to anyone. Reminiscent of FMW style brawls (sans blood). ****3/8 (no joke)

LATE NEWS

Here are the result of the UWA card held Sunday, March 15, 1992, at el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos in Naucalpan, Mexico, Mexico. The main event saw Bufalo Allen and The Canadian Express (Doug Furnas and Danny Kroffat), as they are now billed, on their last night in before leaving for the All Japan promotion's "Champion Carnival '92" tour, win in three falls over los Villanos IV and V and Enrique Ver. Originally Vera had been scheduled to team with Dos Caras and el Villano III, but the card had to be re-arranged as the plane carrying the UWA boys back from Japan was late. The Canadian Express, who donned masks (Furnas's has the USA stars and stripes on it, go figure) in the middle of their tour (last week at el Toreo they worked without masks). They got over great again, and their win on their final day in suggests the promotion wants them back very much. The first AND third fall finishes were Allen pinning Vera after fouling Vera behind referee's backs. This finish is more understandable than most UWA non-finishes since Allen is staying around for a few weeks and is feuding with Vera. The semifinal saw el Fantasma, el Solar I, and el Coloso defeat Rambo, Kahos I, and Fishman in three falls when Fishman was disqualified for giving el Solar I "an illegal punch" (that's what it said, don't know if it was a foul or not). The tercera had el Villano I, el Magnetico, and el Sicodelico over los Guerreros del Averno (Shu, el Guerrero, el Lobo Rubio, and el Hijo del Diablo) in three falls when Sicodelico pinned Lobo Rubio clean (what a shock that must have been to the fans) in the third fall. I do not have a report on the second match of the card, but the opener saw The American Eagle I, The Baby Face I, and el Engendro defeat el Celestial, el Halcón 78, and el Gran Apache I in three falls.

The CMLL's big card on Sunday, March 15, 1992, was held at the "Plaza de Toros Monumental" bull ring in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, Mexico's third largest city. I have only one result: the main event saw Cien Caras retain the CMLL World Heavyweight Championship by defeating Casanova el Vampiro Canadiense two falls to one. The finish of the third fall was a count out of the ring. Vampiro ran along the apron outside the ring and gave Caras "la silla," the Liger flip dive. Both men were "knocked out." Caras, with aid from his second Sangre Chicana, made it back in to the ring by the count of twenty and was awarded the victory. I am not certain whether CHicana's help was in pushing Caras back into the ring in time (the rules say the wrestler should make it back on his own) or whether CHicana held Vampiro back from getting in, but the report I got said Caras owed his victory to CHicana's help. The reason for the big card in Monterrey was that the CMLL held its first annual convention there this past weekend. They announced the CMLL Women's Tournament would begin Friday, March 27, 1992, at la Arena Mexico, with Akira Hokuto and Yumke Akito (but not Bull Nakano) coming in from Japan. More news on the convention and Paco Alonso's press conference there next time.

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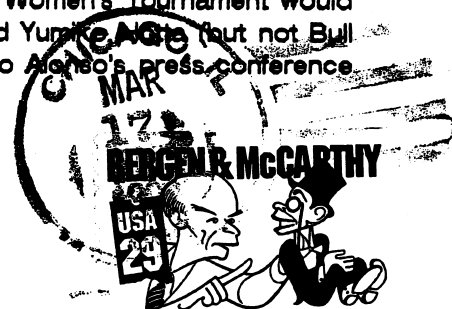
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c/o Stephen H. Sims

1427 West Dickens Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60614-3003

(312)477-3996



To: R. Scott Houston
P.O. Box 249
West Friendship, MD 21791-0249